

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5- 8, and 11-14 and add new claim 20 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a battery for driving the image forming apparatus; and

charging means for charging the battery, wherein the charging means being mounted to the image forming apparatus and having first contact point portion, second contact point portion and third contact point portion,

wherein the image forming apparatus being containable in a separate container stand as a place stand, the battery being is charged by containing the image forming apparatus in the container stand when not used and chargeable if the image forming apparatus is contained in the container stand in a predetermined direction or in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction the charging means being mounted to the image forming apparatus and having a plurality of contact point portions and the container stand having a plurality of contact terminal portions, the contact terminal portions being in contact with the contact point portions in a predetermined combination the container stand having first contact terminal portion, second contact terminal portion, and third contact terminal portion, and the first contact terminal portion and the third contact terminal portion is conducted with the same polarity,

wherein said first contact point portion contacts with said first contact terminal portion, said second contact point portion contacts with said second contact terminal portion and said third contact point portion contacts with said third contact terminal portion for charging the battery when the image forming apparatus mounting the charging means is contained in the container stand in a predetermined direction, and

wherein each of the contact terminal portions is in contact with any of the contact point portions in a predetermined combination to charge the battery when the image forming apparatus is contained in the container stand in a predetermined direction, and each of the contact terminal portions is in contact with any of the contact point portions to charge the battery in a combination different from the predetermined combination when the image forming apparatus mounting the charging means is contained in the container stand in a direction opposite to the

~~predetermined direction.~~

wherein said contact point portions and said contact terminal portions are arranged such that said first contact point portion contacts with said third contact terminal portion, said second contact point portion contacts with said second contact terminal portion and said third contact point portion contacts with said first contact terminal portion when the image forming apparatus is contained in the container stand in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction, and the battery is chargeable when the image forming apparatus is contained in the container stand in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction.

2.-3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said battery and said charging means are incorporated in a charging device structured to be attachable to and detachable from said image forming apparatus, and the charging of said battery is conducted by containing in said container stand said charging device in the status of being mounted on said image forming apparatus.

5. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein on the backside of said charging device, the contact point ~~portion~~ portions is provided, and the contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions is provided for said container stand, and said contact point ~~portion~~ portions and said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions are electrically connected by containing said image forming apparatus having said charging device mounted thereon in said container stand.

6. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the contact point ~~portion~~ portions of said charging device, and said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions of said container stand are arranged in the central portion of the connecting surface of said charging device and said container stand, respectively, and are in a symmetrical mode.

7. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said cradle is provided with a shutter mechanism for protecting said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions, and said shutter mechanism retracts by containing said image forming apparatus having said charging device mounted thereon in said container stand.

8. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the load required for pressurizing said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions to be in contact and retracting said shutter mechanism is smaller than the weight of said charging device alone.

9. (original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said charging device is provided with a portion to hide the DC jack for input use for said image forming apparatus, and when said image forming apparatus having said charging device mounted thereon is contained in said container stand, the structural portion of said container stand covers said jack for DC input use of said charging device.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein on the backside of said image forming apparatus the contact point ~~portion~~ portions is provided, and the contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions is provided for said container stand, and said contact point ~~portion~~ portions and said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions are electrically connected by containing said image forming apparatus having said charging device mounted thereon in said container stand.

12. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the contact point ~~portion~~ portions of said image forming apparatus and said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions of said container stand are arranged in the central portion of the connecting surface of said charging device and said container stand, respectively, and are in a symmetrical mode.

13. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said container stand is provided with a shutter mechanism for protecting said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions, and said shutter mechanism retracts by containing said image forming apparatus having said charging device mounted thereon in said container stand.

14. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the load required for pressurizing said contact terminal ~~portion~~ portions to be in contact and retracting said shutter mechanism is smaller than the weight of said image forming apparatus.

15. (previously presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein either said charging device or said image forming apparatus is provided with indication means for showing the charging condition of said battery, and said indication means is structured to be recognizable even when said image forming apparatus is contained in said container stand.

16. (original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said indication means for showing the charging condition of the battery is recognizable even when said image forming apparatus is contained in said container stand in any direction, forward or backward, and said contact point portion and said contact terminal portion are electrically connectable.

17. (original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a recording sheet supply tray dually functioning as a cover capable of being open and closed with respect to said image forming apparatus is structured not to open when said image forming apparatus is contained in said container stand.

18. (original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said image forming apparatus can be contained in said container stand in the status having an I/F cable connected thereto.

19. (original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said battery is incorporated in said image forming apparatus, and said charging means is incorporated in said container stand, and said battery is charged when said image forming apparatus is contained in said container stand.

20. (new) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a battery for driving the image forming apparatus; and
charging means for charging the battery, wherein the charging means being mounted to the image forming apparatus and having first contact point portion, second contact point portion and third contact point portion,

wherein the image forming apparatus being containable in a separate container stand, the battery is charged by containing the image forming apparatus in the container stand and the container stand having first contact terminal portion, second contact terminal portion, and third contact terminal portion, and the first contact terminal portion and the third contact terminal portion is conducted with the same polarity,

wherein said first contact point portion contacts with said first contact terminal portion, second contact point portion contacts with said second contact terminal portion and said third contact point portion contacts with said third contact terminal portion for charging the battery when the image forming apparatus is contained in the container stand in a predetermined direction,

wherein said contact point portions and said contact terminal portions are arranged such that said first contact point portion contacts with said third contact terminal portion, said second contact point portion contacts with said second contact terminal portion and said third contact point portion contacts with said first contact terminal portion when the image forming apparatus is contained in the container stand in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction, and the battery is chargeable when the image forming apparatus is contained in the container stand in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction, and

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wherein said image forming apparatus has DCin jack and said charging means has a plate for covering said DCin jack when said charging means is mounted to the image forming apparatus.